

# 'RAT NEST' REMOVAL PLEA IGNORED

## Torrance City Court Busiest in Area

## Council 'Deaf' To Appeal by Drale

### MOVE TO PUT COURT HERE SUPPORTED

Torrance City Court presided over by Judge Otto B. Willett has a larger case load than Gardena Justice Court presided over by Justice of the Peace John Shidler, a report to the Board of Supervisors on the Inferior Court Reorganization program reveals.

Figures of Chief Administrative Officer Wayne Allen show that Torrance City Court had a total case load of 7155 cases during the year 1949-50, while the Justice court had only 5,500 cases during the same year.

In fact, the report shows, Torrance City Court is the busiest of all inferior courts in the South Bay area.

The figures are lending weight to the alternate recommendation of Allen to the Supervisors that two courts be established in the South Bay area, one East court serving Torrance and Gardena, and one West court, serving Redondo Beach, Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach, El Segundo, Palos Verdes Estates and part of the Centinela township unincorporated area.

#### TORRANCE LOGICAL

That the court should be established within the municipal confines of Torrance seen in the fact that Torrance is the largest geographical area, 18 square miles and thus will enjoy greater growth than any other area; the fact that more court cases originate in Torrance; the fact that the population of Torrance is almost double that of Gardena, and the fact that Torrance City Court handles one-fourth of all cases in the South Bay area. The total case load for all courts in the area is 31,965. Gardena Court handled

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### Building Ahead Of Last Year

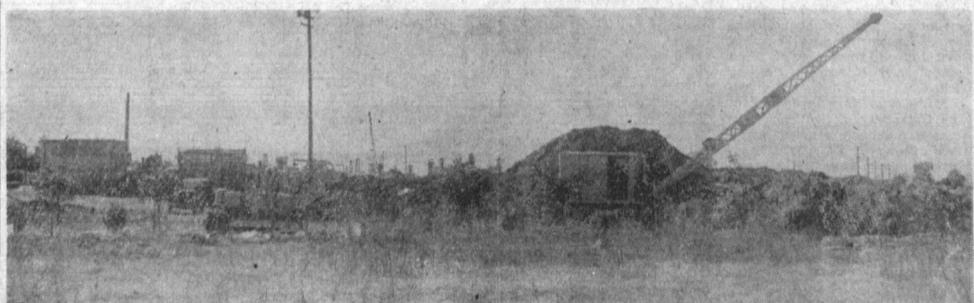
With February's building permits not yet tallied as this edition went to press, the first two month building permit total for 1951 shows a more than \$200,000 increase over the first two month period of 1950.

With only the larger building permits on record tallied for February, 1951, the first two months of this year show more than \$2,246,480 of permits issued, as compared with the first two month complete total of \$2,066,885 for last year.

The biggest chunk of permits issued shown for February was for 85 homes and 69 garages in the Torrance Gardens tract at Torrance and Crenshaw Blvds. Their value was listed at a total of \$725,900.

Also on the February books are permits totaling \$205,000 for the new equipment building to be constructed at Cravens

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OPERATION 'RATS' CONTINUES — The City Council Tuesday night ignored a plea of Councilman Nick Drale that the City Dump inhabiting hundreds of rats be closed. Here a shovel continues to dig. Hundreds of children live near the "rats nest", but the city fails to heed the health danger involved, Drale will take the matter to the people, he said. (Press photo)



LLOYD SULLIVAN 'JIM' NEAL  
Photo by Dixie Lee Studio

### Torrance Youths With 40th Sent to Japan

More than 100 youths from the Torrance area were ordered to duty in Japan with the 40th California National Guard division by the department of defense this week, according to Rep. Patrick J. Hillings, (R), of Arcadia.

Local youths of Torrance's 578th Engineer (Combat) Battalion formerly stationed at the airport and Company A of that battalion formerly headquartered at the Torrance hall park were inducted into the service Sept. 1 when the 40th California National Guard division was called into active service. They reported to Camp Cooke for duty.

Most of the youths, some just graduated from high school, received their military training at Camp Cooke since induction to the present time.

The division has been placed on an immediate alert for movement to Japan to provide additional security for that country.

Hillings was advised that the division is to be ready at its own station, Camp Cooke, for movement between March 15 and 20.

OVERSEAS TRAINING  
The army said it is intended to keep the division intact in Japan for completion of its training. There is no "present plan" to use the division in Korea the army said.

It is contemplated that unit commanders will be able to allow some of the officers and men short leaves prior to departure

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### Downpours Up Season's Rain To 5.44 Inches

Flooding areas and slicking streets, a downpour of rain and hail last Friday brought 1.64 inches of rain to Torrance.

Still below the norm for the season, the rains of last Friday, Feb. 23, and Monday, Feb. 26, brought the season's rain total to 5.44 inches.

Monday's rain brought .28 inches of rain here.

This Year Last Year  
Season ..... 5.44 in. 7.46 in.

### LOCAL YOUTH MISSING IN ACTION

A veteran of the Inchon invasion, Pfc. Donald C. White, 19, 229 E. Carson St., was reported missing in action by the defense department.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. D. C. White of 229 E. Carson St., White enlisted in the army Sept. 1, 1949. He was attached with the 31st Infantry Regiment of the United States Army.

His mother said that the last letter she received from her son was dated October 13, 1950. She received notification from the defense department Feb. 14, 1951. He has been missing in action, however, since Dec. 12, 1950.

Pfc. White attended Banning High School. Having lived in Torrance for about 10 years, he has spent most of his life in Southern California.

He has one sister, Edith, 14 years, now attending Banning High School.

### Planners Act Faster Than C. of C. Group

The Torrance City Planning Commission had the chance to tell the City Council this week that it is a step or two ahead of the Chamber of Commerce on some matters.

The Chamber at the last Council meeting asked that a minimum of 750 square feet of living area be provided in subdivision homes in the future, and the letter was referred by the Council to the Planning Commission for comment and action.

At the meeting of the Planning Commission held Feb. 21, a letter signed by E. A. Lloyd, secretary and sent to the Council Tuesday night reads, the following action was taken:

"That the Council be advised that the minimum requirements for living area had been recommended in a suggested amendment to the Building Code in a letter to the Council under date of February 9, 1951."

"Whose move is it now?" asks the interested observer.

### Vacation Policy Voted By Council

The City Council Tuesday night voted that a change be made in the policy of "separation vacations."

Upon recommendation of City Manager George Stevens, the Council voted that the amount of vacation granted will be based on time accrued from the date of employment.

### Doorbells Ring For Red Cross Donations

Red Cross volunteer workers began ringing Torrance doorbells Monday of this week as the 1951 Red Cross drive got underway.

The local quota of the \$3,600,000 chapter goal is \$11,100, and Mrs. Gladys Weston, Torrance fund chairman, reports that the response so far indicates an appreciation of the tremendous responsibilities the Red Cross has taken on in the present emergency.

"It will cost the Red Cross \$7 per minute to carry on its stepped-up program at home and abroad," the local chairman said, "and Torrance is asked to support these programs for 26 hours and 26 minutes."

Volunteer workers are urging each subscriber to underwrite the Red Cross for at least one minute. Those who cannot afford \$7 are reminded that \$3.50 will finance a half-minute.

Among Torrance volunteers in the fund drive are Charles T. Rippey, 1331 Post avenue, commerce and industry chairman; Mrs. Joseph Andrade, 4308 West 174th street, colonel; and Mrs. Winfred Spelman, 23145 Doris way, colonel.

Eleven majors include Mrs. Florence Martin, 2431 Gramercy avenue; Mrs. Ethel R. Richardson, 22903 Carbrillo avenue; Mrs. N. D. Smith, 2010 Martina st.; Mrs. T. L. Saunders, 2847 Gramercy avenue; Mrs. John W. Harvey, 2152 Middlebrook road; Mrs. Wanda Phillips, 1569 West 228th, Mrs. Robert E. Murphy, 1520 Fern avenue; Mrs. Delber Thomsen, 1447 El Padre; Miss Ethel West, 1691 216th street; Mrs. Virginia Naumann, 4912 Sharynne Lane; and Robert E. Sleeth Jr., 24251 Los Cadona.

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### Two Hurt in Head-on Auto Collision

Wet brakes was said to be an attributing factor in a head-on auto collision last Friday afternoon at 190th and Arlington, which injured both drivers.

Injured were Lane Ralph Hodgins, 32, of 4101 Stuart avenue, Beulah Roberts, of 5024 W. 126th, east on 190th street, Hawthorne, to her home. The friend turned right on Arlington. Audrey Saville applied her brakes to slow down for the turn. Her brakes failed and she swerved to avoid hitting the car she was following and hit Hodgins' car which was traveling west.

Both were taken to Harbor General Hospital where Audrey Saville was discharged Sunday, Feb. 25. Hodgins was transferred to Torrance Memorial Hospital where he was still undergoing treatment Tuesday when this

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### 'Jim' Neal Funeral This Afternoon

Lloyd Sullivan "Jim" Neal, 50, quietly passed away at his home, 1695 Gramercy Ave., last Saturday afternoon of a heart attack. Well known in Torrance and former owner of the Dixie Lee Photo Studio here, Neal had been living in Torrance since 1946.

According to his widow, Dixie Lee, Neal passed away suddenly about 4:30 p.m. There were no apparent signs of suffering.

The funeral will be 2 p.m. today at the chapel of Stone and Myers Mortuary in Torrance with Rev. Edward Wycoff conducting services. Interment will be at Rose Hills Memorial Park, according to latest information.

Moving lived in California for about the past 15 years, Neal founded the Dixie Lee Studio in Torrance in 1946, which he sold in February of this year. He was also owner of the Dixie Lee Studio in Redondo Beach until last May. He had sold both studios for health reasons, it was said.

Born in Hayesville, Missouri, Neal is a former member of the Torrance Kiwanis Club. He is survived by his widow, Dixie Lee Neal; mother, Mrs. Gertrude Lake

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RATS!  
Four members of the City Council appear to favor keeping them near homes where hundreds of children live.

At least, they ignored a motion by Councilman Nick Drale Tuesday night to cease operations on the City Dump at Plaza del Amo and Western avenue, to condemn and fill the "filthy dump" west of the city area, known as the brick pit and to lease an oil sump far removed from human habitation for use as a dump.

Drale, responding to appeals from residents of Kettler Knolls who for months have sought to have the City Dump "rats nest" closed, made his motion in open meeting.

Councilmen Willys Blount, H. Spelman and Ed Karlow sat with bowed heads twiddling pencils with obvious embarrassment. So did Mayor Bob Haggard.

Drale reminded the Council that one private operator had been forced by the city to close an area because of rats, and said that "it is a shame that the City of Torrance openly supports them at the City Dump."

Still no response from the other four members of the City Council.

Finally, Mayor Haggard said: "Motion lost for want of a second," and proceeded with the meeting.

Drale said that he will carry the fight to close the dump to the people and suggested calling a mass meeting of Kettler residents to force action upon the City Council.

It was mentioned by observers that the attitude of the Council could have been motivated by their open effort to "throttle" Drale's political career, since they habitually vote "no" on Drale motions.

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### Games Banned Here Again Held Illegal

While it was known all the time in Torrance that the "one-ball" marble table is an illegal game of chance—and it took the combined efforts of the Torrance Press, the ministers and Parent-Teacher groups of the area to convince the City Council of that fact—it appears now that there will be no trouble with them in the future.

Attorney General E. G. Brown Feb. 19 ruled the one-ball pinball devices illegal.

He said that his office will crack down on such illegal machines where it is repeatedly shown local law enforcement officers fail to do so.

Brown said his general policy will be to urge local officers to crack down on the devices.

If the press or citizens report to his office that such officials are not moving in, he will first call the local official's attention to the fact, if nonenforcement persists, he will send his own men in, he added.

His agents will be armed with felony conspiracy warrants and not misdemeanor warrants.

The one-ball devices, and eight other types of games were held illegal by the opinion. Included was Canast-O, a game played by tossing rubber balls into numbered holes.

Torrance City Council actually was licensing the illegal devices until the Torrance Press, aided by demands of ministers and Parent-Teacher groups, started its drive to rid Torrance of the gambling devices. After several attempts, the interests of law and order won.

And that's history, in the face of the attorney general's ruling.

### State Aid For City Sewer Plans Asked

The City Council Tuesday night adopted two resolutions asking for state aid toward the North Torrance and Seaside Heights Sewer Districts.

City Manager George Stevens informed the Council that Torrance still had access to \$2400 unallocated funds which were part of a post-war state allotment toward civic improvements.

Plans for both sewer districts are already underway in the city engineer's office, according to Stevens.

In the North Torrance Area, 350 to 400 homes on Hawthorne Blvd. between 178th and 179th Streets and at Hawthorne Blvd. and 182nd Street will be included in the sewer district.

About 160 homes will be included in the planned Seaside Heights Sewer District.

### TOP PRICES PAID HERE

Torrance Press Want-Ad readers will pay top prices for your used furniture or appliances according to Mrs. O. E. Karr, IF, and the "IF" is no hurdle provided you will use full description in your advertisement. The well described ad below cost Mrs. Karr only 60 cents and over a dozen calls and brought her a good price for her piano.

PIANO—Vose and Sons—Studio size, excellent condition, reasonable. 1350 W. 228th.

## Miss Torrance of 1951 - - - Which One?



ZOLA BELLWOOD DONA FULLER ALICE GARGALIS SANDY GULBRANSON PAT MEROLA DOROTHY SANDSTROM SHIRLEY YORK

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